

"Focus" on Vision Impairment & Blindness Conference

Meeting the Needs of Individuals with
Cognitive Disability & Vision Loss

**Wednesday, March 11, 2009
Holiday Inn Taunton, MA
8:00am – 3:30pm**

Welcome Remarks:

DMR Commissioner Elin Howe

Keynote Speaker:

Tony Deifell

**"Seeing Beyond Vision Loss:
We all see the world in different ways"**

Lunch Remarks:

**Jean Flatley McGuire, Ph.D.
Assistant Secretary for Disability Policies
and Programs**



A Very Special Thank You...

Co-Lead Sponsors:



Partners HealthCare

MAB Community Services

Sponsors:

New England Eye Institute

Perkins Training Center

DMR Southeast Region Training Council

Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

Friends:

Shriver Clinical Services Corp.

**Massachusetts Equipment Distribution
Program/Verizon**

To Our Exhibitors Including:

Literature Tables:

All Out Adventures

Enablemart

Independent Living Aids

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National Eye Institute

National Institute on Aging

National Institute of Health

Hadley School for the Blind

WGBH

A Very Special Thank You...

Vendors:

Adaptive Technology, a division of Perkins Products

Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts

Easter Seals Massachusetts

Helen Keller National Center - New England Region

MAGNISIGHT

Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Massachusetts Equipment Distribution Program/Verizon

**North East Chapter/Association for Education and
Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired**

New England Consortium of Deafblind Projects

New England Eye Institute

Outdoor Explorations

Perkins Braille & Talking Book Library

Perkins School for the Blind

The Carroll Center for the Blind

Welcoming:

MassHealth-Member Education Unit-Bob Guerino-Julie Kemp

New England Index

Prevent Blindness America

Recycling for R.I. Education



A Very Special Thank You...

Poster Displays:

Wheelchair Reviews of Places in MA

The Traveling Wheelchair by Kenny & Company
www.thetravelingwheelchair.com

Creating a Vision for Falls Prevention

Massachusetts Prevent Injuries NOW! Network
Lewis C. Howe, Chairman
Y.K. Gary Chu, OD, MPH

By the Ocean

Susan Jew accompanied by Theresa Haskell,
Developmental Specialist, People Incorporated
Life Skills Program

MAB on the Move - Orientation and Mobility Seminar Series for DMR Consumers with Vision Loss

MAB Community Services
Orientation and Mobility Services Metro Region
Michele Reed, Steve Jordan, and Karleese Nichols



About Tony Deifell:

Tony Deifell studied Anthropology at UNC-Chapel Hill, earned an MBA from Harvard Business School where he started a national conference on Leadership and Values, and was a fellow in the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's National Leadership Program. For five years, he taught photography to blind teenagers in Raleigh, NC and last year Chronicle Books published an award-winning book of the work called SEEING BEYOND SIGHT, which has been featured on KQED's The Forum with Michale Krasny, New York Times Book Review, LA Times and more.



Tony founded and headed for eight years a national media company for "user generated content" before there was a label for it. His work received recognition by the White House as a national model in diversity education. Tony was an artist-in-residence at the Headlands Center for the Arts, taught documentary studies at Duke University, and has served on local and national boards including the Kellogg Fellows Leadership Alliance and the Social Enterprise Alliance where he co-chairs the public policy initiative.

Just recently, his alma matter, UNC Chapel Hill selected him for their Distinguished Young Alumnus Award given to two alumni each year under 40. It's a distinction he now holds with Michael Jordan and Mia Hamm.

Tony will also be offering a concurrent session at the conference:

Point & Shoot Photography as a means of Expression for Individuals with Cognitive Disability and Vision Loss

Conference Agenda **"At-a-Glance"**

8:00 – 8:30	Registration / Vendors Open / Refreshments
8:30 – 8:45	Welcome Remarks
8:45 – 9:45	Keynote
9:45 – 10:00	Break / Vendors Open & Poster Session
10:00 – 11:00	1 st Concurrent Session
11:00 – 11:15	Break / Vendors Open & Poster Session
11:15 – 12:15	2 nd Concurrent Session
12:15 – 1:00	Lunch / Vendors Open
1:00 – 1:15	Lunch Remarks
1:15 – 1:30	Break / Vendors Open & Poster Session
1:30 - 2:30	3 rd Concurrent Session
2:30 – 2:45	Break / Refreshments / Vendors Open
2:45 - 3:00	Closing Remarks
3:00 – 3:30	"The imPOSSIBLE Dream" (Short Film) / Raffle
3:30 – 4:00	Vendors Open / Networking / Poster Session



Directions

HOLIDAY INN - TAUNTON
700 MYLES STANDISH BLVD, TAUNTON, MA
(508)823-0430

From Route 495 South, take Exit 9, right off ramp onto Bay Street. From Route 495 North, take Exit 9, left off ramp onto Bay Street. Follow Bay Street to 1st traffic light. At light, take a right into Myles Standish Industrial Park. Holiday Inn will be on the right hand side.

We look forward to seeing you on March 11th!!!

"Focus" on Vision Impairment & Blindness

8:00 – 8:30 Registration / Vendors Open / Refreshments

8:30 – 8:45 Welcome - DMR Commissioner Elin Howe

8:45 – 9:45 Keynote - Tony Deifell, author, Seeing Beyond Sight
www.seeingbeyondsight.org

**"Seeing Beyond Vision Loss:
We all see the world in different ways"**

9:45 – 10:00 Break / Vendors & Posters Open

10:00 – 11:00 Concurrent Sessions

A. Diagnosis and Treatment of Eye Diseases in Patients with Cognitive Disability

Presenter: Frank E. Masci, MD, FACS

Description: Lecture begins with a general review of the anatomy of the visual system, including ocular and central nervous system. This will be followed by a discussion of congenital and acquired conditions of cognitive disability that have associated ocular pathology. Medical and surgical treatment options will be discussed. We will discuss the challenges of the ocular assessment as well as diagnostic modalities employed in this patient population. Finally, we will discuss the side effect of therapy.

B. Developing Community Residential Programs for Individuals Who are Deafblind or Visually Impaired with Additional Disabilities

Presenter: Steve Perreault, Coordinator of Project Development in Latin America, Hilton/Perkins Program, Perkins School for the Blind

Description: Through the use of a booklet co-authored by the presenter, participants will learn ten key issues to be examined in developing community residential programs for the targeted population. Each participant will receive copies of the material and be encouraged to discuss issues in program development and share additional strategies/ideas. Issues to be examined include: Staffing; Administration; Environmental Adaptations; Program Content; Family/caregiver interactions; Community Connections; and Evaluation.

10:00 – 11:00 Concurrent Sessions (continued)

C. **Point and Shoot Photography as a means of Expression for Individuals with Cognitive Disability & Vision Loss**

Presenter: Tony Deifell, author, Seeing Beyond Sight,
www.seeingbeyondsight.org

Description: Hands on workshop where attendees will learn basic techniques of point and shoot photography for use by individuals with vision loss. Sample photos, on line video, and sample assignment sheets will be shared. Please bring your own digital camera for use during the workshop.

D. **Lighting: Impact on Vision and Function**

Presenter: Jennifer Kaldenberg, MSA, OTR/L, SCLV, CLVT,
New England Eye Institute

Description: Visual changes, including decreased visual acuity, decreased visual field and contrast sensitivity have been linked to greater limitation in activities of daily living, increased risk of falls, and a greater risk of secondary health conditions for older adults. Environments, as well, can limit or facilitate an individual's safe participation in daily occupations. Lighting and contrast are two important components of the environment that should be addressed to maximize the safety and independence of those with visual impairment.

This workshop will discuss the impact of lighting on vision and function, focusing on the research and the role of the practitioner regarding lighting assessments and interventions. Come listen and learn about simple strategies you can use to help your clients, specifically regarding safe and functional environments for individuals with visual and cognitive impairment.

11:00 – 11:15 Break / Vendors & Posters Open



11:15 – 12:15 Concurrent Sessions

A. **Who? What? Where? When? Why? The Comprehensive Eye Examination for Individuals with Cognitive Disabilities**

Presenter: Heather Bourdeau, O.D., Gordon A. Price and Associates, Your Vision Source, and The New England Eye Institute at The Cardinal Cushing Center, The May Center for Education and Neuro-rehabilitation, MAB Community Services

Description: The goal of this talk is to answer questions concerning the primary examination for individuals with cognitive disabilities. We will briefly discuss why and when it is important for individuals of all cognitive abilities to have an eye examination, and where one can look to find a doctor to perform the examination. The emphasis of the talk will address what constitutes an eye examination and what adaptations for non-verbal or cognitive disabilities exist. We will briefly discuss what treatments are available for vision loss. Treatment options may include referrals to various educational or rehabilitation specialists. (For a more thorough discussion on treatment options for individuals with vision loss and cognitive impairment, please attend the lecture entitled "Visual Solutions for Individuals with Vision Loss and Cognitive Disabilities").

B. **"The Next Big Step" School to Adult Services/Supports Including Unique Considerations for Individuals with Visual Impairments**

Presenters: Stephen Moulton, M.A., Director MR/DD Services,
North Suffolk Mental Health Association;
Jane Rosen, M.A., Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist,
Worcester Public Schools
Kimberly A. King, M.Ed., Certified Special Education Teacher,
Worcester Public Schools
Jeffrey Lafata, Residential Services Coordinator,
North Suffolk Mental Health Association

Description: Join us for a lively Panel Presentation and Discussion regarding transition planning and support services for students who will graduate within the next year to six years. Participants will learn about the philosophical differences between an Educational/School Model and an Adult Services Model and the programmatic differences as well. Information will be presented about what questions to ask and what materials to ask for when selecting an Adult Service Provider Agency. Participants will learn when and how to start the planning process and what components of a plan are essential for a successful transition/move. Examples of seamless moves for students from school services to residential and employment/day services will be provided.

11:15 – 12:15 Concurrent Sessions (continued)

C. **Promoting Independence in the Kitchen**

Presenters: Anna Kusterski, Social Worker/Rehabilitation Teacher,
Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

Jennifer Daly, Counselor for the Deaf/Blind Multi-
handicapped, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

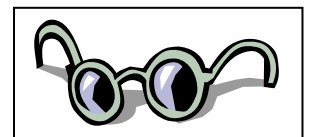
Description: "Promoting Independence in the Kitchen" will educate attendees about the basic strategies on how to teach individuals with vision loss to become more independent and safe during meal preparation. The presentation will focus on safe use of appliances, techniques for meal preparation, and provide suggestions for overall kitchen organization. Products and demonstration of methods related to low vision and cooking will be presented.

D. **"Wheeling" with Vision Loss: Independent Travel for Individuals with Legal Blindness Who Use Wheelchairs**

Presenter: Kathleen Kenney, M.Ed., Certified Orientation and Mobility
Specialist, The Carroll Center for the Blind

Description: There are many ways to encourage active and independent travel for individuals with legal blindness who use a wheelchair. We will look at differently abled travelers and discuss their various techniques for both power and manual chairs, including use of a cane. We will also discuss ways to encourage a passive traveler to become more active in his or her travel. Kenny and Company, developers of The Traveling Wheelchair, www.thetravelingwheelchair.com, will share safety and environmental considerations.

12:15 – 1:00 Lunch / Vendors Open



1:00 – 1:15 Remarks:

Jean Flatley McGuire, Ph.D.,
Assistant Secretary for Disability Policies and Programs

1:15 – 1:30 Break / Vendors & Posters Open

1:30 – 2:30 Concurrent Sessions

A. **Visual Solutions for Individuals with Vision Loss and Cognitive Disabilities**

Presenters: Heather Bourdeau, O.D., Gordon A. Price and Associates, Your Vision Source, and The New England Eye Institute at The Cardinal Cushing Center, The May Center for Education and Neuro-rehabilitation, MAB Community Services

June Smith, Brain Gym International, Certification in Sensory Integration, National Board Certified in Occupational Therapy, The Cardinal Cushing Center

Description: The goal of this lecture is to discuss the treatment options available for an individual with vision loss and cognitive disabilities. The majority of this talk will discuss various optical and non-optical solutions available. Low vision devices, such as magnifiers, reading glasses, telescopes, lighting, and glare-reducing tints, will be described and presented for hands-on experience. We will discuss various options in assistive technology and environmental accommodations. We will also review the role of education/rehabilitation professionals, including Teachers of the Visually Impaired, Orientation and Mobility Specialists, Vision Rehabilitation Therapists, and Occupational Therapists. Because visual function also involves visual skills, we will address the role of vision therapy used to improve these skills, and discuss a school-based clinic performing this therapy; The Cardinal Cushing Center's Vision Clinic.

B. **Breaking Barriers: Managing a Successful Eye Examination for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities**

Presenters: Barry S. Kran, O.D., FAAO, Chief, Individuals with Disabilities Service, New England Eye Institute

Heather Hobbs, Human Services Coordinator, DMR

Description: This team taught presentation is designed to raise the level of understanding regarding the numerous issues facing all stakeholders in ensuring a successful and meaningful eye examination for individuals with intellectual disabilities. This ranges from identification of the need for an eye exam, finding an eye care provider comfortable working with adults with intellectual disabilities, making sure that the appropriate materials are sent ahead of the appointment, that proper materials are brought to the appointment, advocating and aiding with the examination and getting useful information from the examination. Barriers from all perspectives will be identified and tackled. This dynamic presentation will involve a video case example and audience participation.

C. Encouraging Creativity...Designing Inclusive and Multidimensional Art Programs

Presenter: Melanie Rose-Zagwyn, Art Director, New England Village, Inc.

Description: How many times have you heard yourself, a staff member or participant say, "I'm not the crafty type, I can't even draw a straight line"... In this presentation you will discover that "no previous training" is required to develop and sustain an enticing and successful arts program. You will feel empowered to learn that art programming is an achievable, *essential* goal for every program, every participant and every staff - success is only one brushstroke/one foot step/one musical note away!

It is a known fact that the Arts can be therapeutic for the mind, body and spirit. Actively participating in creative art opportunities also provides outlets for self expression; enhances self-esteem and can be a vehicle for improving activities of daily living. Melanie will guide you in the *whole-person* approach to creative learning and focus on *process not product* methods of multidisciplinary programming. Additionally, you will have knowledge of two other key components which will help facilitate the designing of a dynamic arts program of your own.

Also included in this presentation:

- Designing creativity enhancing spaces despite budget size
- Proper hand-over-hand techniques
- Effective assistance techniques for staff and reluctant individuals
- Adaptive art materials to try-out and how to them make yourself
- Multi-sensory art works to experience

D. Custom-Made Enabling Devices

Presenter: Molly Campbell, MS, OTR/L, ATP, Occupational Therapist, Assistive Technology Practitioner, Director of the Assistive Device Center at Perkins School for the Blind

Description: There is more to the field of assistive technology than the expensive high tech wheelchairs, computer programs and voice output devices that we often celebrate. Custom-made, low tech assistive devices enable many individuals with disabilities to better access a wide range of activities. These adapted solutions can be even more exciting than the glitzy electronic items. Examples of assistive devices that help people to maintain functional positions, complete work activities, understand educational concepts, play games and take care of daily needs will be discussed. Commonly used building materials, such as cardboard, wood, plastic, fabric, and foam, will be explored. Participants will leave with resource lists for obtaining raw materials, finding unique companies that sell assistive devices, and taking hands-on classes.

2:30 – 2:45 Break / Refreshments / Vendors & Posters Open



2:45 – 3:00 Closing Remarks

3:00 – 3:20 THE imPOSSIBLE DREAM

A short film made by consumers who are deafblind at Helen Keller National Center for Deafblind Awareness Week in 2007. Individuals talk about their dreams. The film shows that these dreams are possible!

Introduction to film by:

Mary Ellen Mary Ellen Barbiasz, M.S., New England Regional Representative for Helen Keller National Center

3:20 - 3:30 RAFFLE

3:30 – 4:00 Vendors & Posters Open / Networking

Additional Copies of this Registration Brochure:

Registration Brochure and Form can be downloaded from "Training and Events" sections of the DMR Vision Loss website: www.mass.gov/dmr/visionloss

Please Register Early If You Can!!

Directions

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700 MYLES STANDISH BLVD, TAUNTON, MA
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We look forward to seeing you on March 11th!!

Registration Information

1. Please fill out the attached form and return BY FEBRUARY 25, 2009 to:
Ann Flynn / Shriver Clinical Services Corporation
607 North Ave. Door 14
Wakefield, MA 01880
2. For questions regarding Registration, please contact Ann Flynn:
AEFLYNN@aol.com or phone 781-279-3141.
3. Please make check payable to: Shriver Clinical Services Corporation
4. Continuing Education Information:
Applications for 4 hours of Continuing Education have been submitted to:
Academy for Certification of Vision Rehab. & Education Prof. (**ACVREP**)
Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (**CRCC**)
MA Mental Health Counselor Continuing Education Program (**MMCEP**)

This program has been approved for 4 Category I CEU Credits (**CECs**) for re-licensure in the period of 10/1/08 - 9/30/10, in accordance with 258 CMR. Boston University School of Social Work. Authorization Number B-10-126.
Questions, please contact: Lisa.DiBonaventura@state.ma.us

An application has been made to MA Board of Registration in **Nursing** for nursing continuing education.
Questions, please contact: Colleen.E.Ryan@state.ma.us

NECO/NEEI has applied for 4 hours of **COPE** approved credits.
Questions, please contact Dr. Barry S. Kran @ Kranb@neco.edu

Perkins Training Center will award 5 Professional Development Points (**PDPs**)
Questions, please contact: Betsy.Bixler@perkins.org
Please indicate your choice of CEU's on the registration form.
5. Scholarships are available for individuals with cognitive disabilities and their families. Scholarships offered by DMR Regional Training Council.
For information: Colleen.E.Ryan@state.ma.us or 508-866-5000, ext. 318
6. Reduced room rates of \$89.95 per night will be available at the Holiday Inn Taunton, phone: 508-823-0430. Please mention Shriver Clinical Services.
Rooms at this rate will be held until 3 weeks prior to the conference.
7. Registration Brochure and Form can be downloaded from "Training and Events" section of DMR Vision Loss website: www.mass.gov/dmr/visionloss
8. Questions please contact: Lisa.DiBonaventura@state.ma.us or 508-384-5539.



Please Register Early!!!

Registration Form

"Focus" On Vision Impairment & Blindness

Meeting the Needs of Individuals with Cognitive Disability and Vision Loss

Wednesday March 11, 2009, Holiday Inn, Taunton, Massachusetts

Name:

Agency Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Can we share your contact information with sponsors? yes _____ no _____

Can we share your contact information with vendors? yes _____ no _____

Conference Rate with Lunch:

General Admittance post marked by February 1st: \$40.00

General Admittance post marked after February 1st: \$50.00

Physician (MD, DO, OD): \$110.00

Lunch Choice: Chicken Parmesan _____ or Vegetable Lasagna _____

Special Accommodations Needed: _____

Concurrent Session Selection: (please circle the sessions you plan to attend)

10:00 - 11:00 A B C D

11:15 - 12:15 A B C D

1:30 - 2:30 A B C D

Please circle the one type of CEU's you will be requesting:

ACVREP CRCC CEC Nursing CEU COPE PDP MMCEP

Check enclosed: _____ Amount: _____

Please write check payable to: Shriver Clinical Services Corporation

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY FEBRUARY 25, 2009 to:

Ann Flynn

Shriver Clinical Services Corporation

607 North Ave. Door 14

Wakefield, MA 01880

Thank you so very much for your support!!!